

Remarks

Claims 1 and 3 – 5 are pending.

No claim changes have been made.

The rejection of claims 1, 3-5 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mannesman is respectfully traversed. Applicant's claims are directed to a process that recites, *inter alia*, "subjecting the tube to axial forces and a medium under high internal pressure so that the tube expands to form said cam regions, wherein the diameter of the tube in said region are greater than the diameter of the tube at the non cam regions." In contrast, Mannesman does not mention using "axial forces", but rather discloses using only hydromechanical expansion methods.

In this respect, applicant submits that during the IHU process shrinkage with respect to the length of the tube will arise. This means that the axial end of the carrier tube 4 and the end piece 2 are no longer in contact. If the end piece and the tube are not in contact it is not possible to uphold the necessary pressure within the tube. Please note that the pressures in an IHU process are very high, namely about 2.000bar (2×10^8 Pa). If this pressure leaks from inside the tube no expansion of the carrier tube will be possible. Hence, applicant's claims recite "subjecting the tube to axial forces..." Accordingly, not only does Mannesmann not disclosed 'subjecting the tube to axial forces...' but a person of skill in the art reading Mannesmann would not be motivated to modify Mannesmann with the application of axial forces.

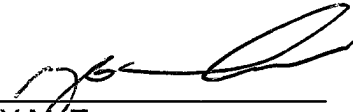
Applicants believe the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit a Notice of Allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees required associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3881. If an extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefore and charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-3881. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Appl. No. 09/674,648
Amdt. dated January 28, 2011
Reply to Office action of September 13, 2010

Dated: January 28, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

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